

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05 /068 W  
----- 072779

R 031115Z DEC 74  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0533  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7555

FOR S/NM AMBASSADOR VANCE AND NEA FOR GRANT AND SCHIFFERDECKER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR, AF  
SUBJ: MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAFI

1. FOLLOWING IS UNCLEARED MEMCON FROM CONVERSATIONS AMBASSADOR VANCE HAD IN AFGHANISTAN WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR HASHIM SAFI ON NOVEMBER 11. ALSO PRESENT WERE: POLICE MAJOR FAROUK YACOobi, CHIEF OF PUBLIC SECURITY, MININT; JOSEPH D. MCLAUGHLIN, NEA LIASON OFFICER, S/M; TERRENCE GRANT, NEA REGIONAL POLITICAL ADVISOR/NARCOTICS COORDINATOR; EDWARD E. JOHNSON, WHITE HOUSE; JAMES V. PETTIT, EMBASSY JUSTICE ATTACHE (DEA); LEE O. COLKDREN, ACTING EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICER. WOULD APPRECIATE S/NM ADVISE WHEN MEMCONS CLEARED OR CLEARED WITH CHANGES.

2. QTE AMBASSADOR VANCE EXPLAINED WHO HE WAS AND THE NATURE OF HIS MISSION. HE STRESSED THAT UNITED STATES OVERSEAS EFFORTS ON ILLICIT DRUGS WAS NON-POLITICAL THAT OUR CONCERN WAS TO HELP CONTROL ILLICIT PRODUCTION, INTERDICT DRUGS DESTINED FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND DISRUPT AND DESTROY THE TRAFFICKING SYSTEM. THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO WORK TO SUCH AN END EITHER BILATERALLY, REGIONALLY, OR THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS,

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WHICHEVER METHOD SUITED THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE

COUNTRY.

3. DEPUTY MINISTER SAFE REVIEWED THE HIEZHY OF OPIUM SMUGGLING IN AFGHANISTAN, LAMENTING THAT LACK OF EQUIPMENT HAMPERED THE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY OF THE POLICE AS THE SMUGGLERS TO IRAN WERE OFTEN BETTER EQUIPPED. HE FRANKLY STATED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF AFGHANS WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ENFORCMENT OF THE BAN ON OPIUM CULTIVATION WAS TO AFGHANISTAN'S INTEREST BUT RATHER, GIVEN THE WORLD PRICE OF LICIT OPIUM, AFGHANISTAN SHOULD BEGIN LEGAL PRODUCTION. HE ALLUDED TO THE RECENT SEIZURE OF HEROIN IN AFGHANISTAN STATING THE GOVERNMENT'S AND HIS PERSONAL CONCERN. THE DEPUTY MINISTER DESCRIBED THE PROGRAM IN THE MINISTRY UNDER THE DIRECTOR OF UN NARCOTICS ADVISOR (UNNA) MAGNUSEN DESCRIBING MR YACOBI'S CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION.

4. IN DISCUSSING THE ADVISEABILITY OF UTILIZING ALL RESOURCES TO ATTACK ILLICIT TRAFFICKING, AMBASSADOR VANCE EXPRESSED SOME PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN SEEMED UNABLE TO FULLY UTILIZE THE SERVICES OF MR PETTIT, ASKING WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS IN THE APPROVAL OF THE REQUESTED "CHARTER".

5. THE DEPUTY MINISTER CONSULTED BRIEFLY WITH MR YACOBI (WHO SPEAKS NO ENGLISH) IN DARI AND REPLIED THAT HE FELT THAT AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATION EXISTED BETWEEN MR PETTIT, MR YACOBI AND THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTICS ADVISOR (UNNA) MAGNUSEN. THE PROBLEM WITH THE CHARTER RESTED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH HAD NOT OFFICIALLY PRESENTED THE "CHARTER" REQUEST TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

6. THERE ENSUED A LONG AND LIVELY DISCUSSION IN SEVERAL LANGUAGE ON THE QUESTION OF THE CHARTER, OF WHAT WAS ACTUALLY REQUESTED, OF WHAT THE PROBLEMS OF APPROVAL ACTUALLY WERE. THE DEPUTY MINISTER FINALLY STATED THAT HE WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

7. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING, MR COLDREN PRIVATELY TOLD THE DEPUTY MINISTER THAT HE HAD EXPLICITLY BEEN TOLD IN SEPTEMBER BY YAHYA MAARIFI, ACTING DIRECTOR OF UN AND INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, MFA, THAT APPROVAL OF THE "CHARTER" RESTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD CONCUR WHATEVER THE DECISION. DEPUTY MINISTER SAFI ALLUDED TO THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE QUESTION. HE WENT ON TO SAY HOWEVER THAT HE HAD BEEN ENLIGHTENED BY THE DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE AND MR PETTIT AND FELT THAT THE NATURE OF THE CHARTER HAD NOT BEEN UNDERSTOOD FULLY BY THE GOA. WHILE AUTHORIZATION OF THE USE OF WEAPONS AND RADIO WAS PROBABLY NOT

POSSIBLE, THE REST MIGHT WELL BE. IN CONFIDENCE HE STATED THAT  
THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK HAD BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S FEAR OF A  
UNILATERALLY CONTROLLED INFORMANT SYSTEM IN AFGHANISTAN. NOW  
THAT HE BETTER UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE,  
HE PLANNED TO PURSUE THE MATTER, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF AMBASSADOR  
VANCE AND THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN BUT ALSO THAT HE FELT THE  
SUPPORT WE COULD PROVIDE UNNA MAGNUSEN IF AN ACCEPTABLE WORKING  
AGREEMENT COULD BE FOUND WITH MR PETTIT WOULD BE OF TREMENDOUS  
VALUE TO THE MINISTRY'S ANTI-SMUGGLING EFFORTS. UNQUOTE.  
ELIOT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974KABUL07555  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740351-0420  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 125  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAFI  
**TAGS:** SNAR, AF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005